

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 and 23-27 which are being pursued in Divisional Application Serial No. 10/897,174 have been cancelled. Claims 17, 18 and 20 have been amended to better define the claimed invention and better distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. More particularly, claim 17 has been amended to specify that the process steps are practiced in sequence and that the concentrated reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids comprise a preparation of the iso- $\alpha$ -acids in their undissolved free acid form. This clearly distinguishes independent claim 17 from Maye who, as the Examiner notes in the Examiner's Answer mailed December 23, 2004, teaches heating aqueous alkaline solutions, with stirring. A "solution" is "a conversion of a solid or gas into a liquid by mixture with a liquid". (See the Oxford Dictionary of Current English, p. 896 - Exhibit A). As noted in Applicants' specification, Applicants are dealing with a concentrated preparation of iso- $\alpha$ -acids in their undissolved, free acid form, which Applicants heat to fluid state. Stated another way, Applicants' claimed invention requires a melt of the  $\alpha$ -acids, while the prior art dissolves the  $\alpha$ -acids in a second material.

Further with regard to the foregoing, claim 17 also has been amended to stress a two step sequential process in which the iso- $\alpha$ -acids are first heated to fluid state, and then a concentrated aqueous alkaline metal hydroxide solution is added to the heated preparation of iso- $\alpha$ -acids. This two step sequence permits Applicants to achieve a highly concentrated viscous solution of an alkaline metal salt of the reduced (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids. As noted on pages 8-9 of Applicants' specification, this is unexpected, and reversing the steps would not achieve a concentrated solution due to tendency of aqueous solutions of the alkaline metal salts of (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids to precipitate out of solution at much lower concentrations which would result if the

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sequence of steps were reverse, and the (*rho*-) iso- $\alpha$ -acids added to an aqueous alkaline metal hydroxide solution. Thus, Applicants' claimed invention is both novel and unobvious.

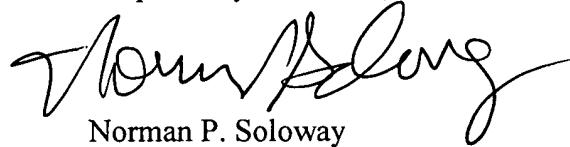
An earnest effort has been made to address the several issues raised by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer, and to advance the prosecution.

Examination of the application in its amended form, and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and comments it is believed the application now is in order for allowance.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

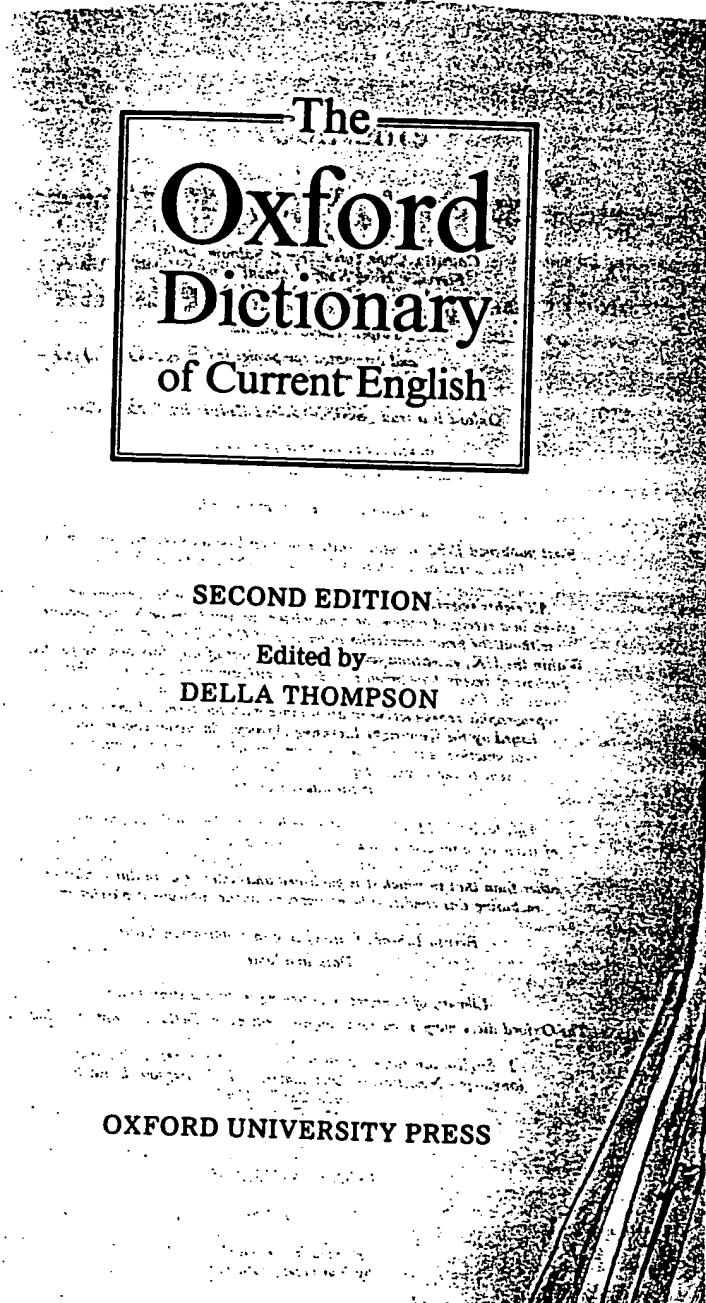
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**solicitous** *□* **solicitously** *adv.* [Latin: related to *solicitus*] **solicitude** *n.* being solicitous. [Latin: related to *solicitous*] **solid** /'sɒlid/ *-adj.* (-der, -dest) 1 firm and stable in shape; not liquid or fluid. 2 of such material throughout, not hollow. 3 of the same substance throughout (*solid silver*). 4 sturdily built; not flimsy or slender. 5 a three-dimensional *b* of solids (*solid geometry*). 6 a sound, reliable (*solid arguments*). 7 dependable (*solid friend*). 7 sound but unexciting (*solid piece of work*). 8 financially sound. 9 uninterrupted (*four solid hours*). 10 unanimous, undivided. 11 (of printing) without spaces. *-n.* 1 solid substance or body. 2 (in *pl.*) solid food. 3 *Geom.* three-dimensional body or magnitude. *-adv.* solidly (*Jammed solid*). *□* **solidly** *adv.* solidness *n.* [Latin *solidus*] **solidarity** /'sɒlɪdərɪtɪ/ *n.* 1 unity, esp. political or in an industrial dispute. 2 mutual dependence. [French: related to *solide*] **solidify** /'sɒlɪdɪfaɪ/ *v.* (-ies, -led) make or become solid. *□* **solidification** /'sɒlɪdɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ *n.* **solidity** /'sɒlɪdɪtɪ/ *n.* being solid; firmness. **solid-state** *adj.* using the electronic properties of solids (e.g. a semiconductor) to replace those of valves. **solidus** /'sɒlɪdəs/ *n.* (*pl.* *solidi* /-dai/) oblique stroke (⟨⟩). [Latin: related to *solidus*] **soliloquy** /'sɒlɪləkwi/ *n.* (*pl.* *-quies*) 1 talking without or regardless of hearers, esp. in a play. 2 this part of a play. *□* **soliloquist** *n.* **soliloquize** *v.* (also *-ise*) (-zing or -sing). [Latin *solus* alone, *logor* speak] **solipsism** /'sɒlɪp,sɪz(ə)m/ *n.* philosophical theory that the self is all that exists or can be known. *□* **solipsist** *n.* [Latin *solus* alone, *ipse* self] **solitaire** /'sɒlɪtɪə(r)/ *n.* 1 jewel set by itself. 2 ring etc. with this. 3 game for one player in which pegs etc. are removed from a board by jumping others over them. 4 *US* - PATIENCE 3. [French: see *SOLITARY*] **solitary** /'sɒlɪtərɪ/ *-adj.* 1 living or being alone; not gregarious; lonely. 2 secluded. 3 single, sole. *-n.* (*pl.* *-ies*) 1 recluse. 2 *colloq.* *□* **SOLITARY CONFINEMENT**. *□* **solitariness** *n.* [Latin *solitarius* from *solus* alone] **solitary confinement** *n.* isolation in a separate prison cell. **solitude** /'sɒlɪtju:d/ *n.* 1 being solitary. 2 lonely place. [Latin *solitudo*: related to *SOLITARY*]

**solo** /'səlu:zo/ *-n.* (*pl.* *-s* or *soli* /-li/) musical piece or passage, or a dance, performed by one person. 2 thing done by one person, esp. an unaccompanied flight. 3 (in full *solo* *whist*) type of *whist* in which one player may oppose the others. *-u.* (-es, -ed) perform a solo. *-adv.* unaccompanied, alone. [Italian from Latin: related to *solo*] **soloist** /'səlu:ɪst/ *n.* performer of a solo, esp. in music. **Solomon's seal** *n.* flowering plant with drooping green and white flowers. [Solomon, king of Israel] **solstice** /'sɒlstɪs/ *n.* either of the times when the sun is furthest from the equator. [Latin *solstitium* 'the sun standing still'] **soluble** /'sɒlju:b(ə)l/ *adj.* 1 that can be dissolved, esp. in water. 2 solvable. *□* **solubility** /'sɒlju:bɪtɪ/ *n.* [Latin *solvo* *solutus* release] **solute** /'sɒljut/ *n.* dissolved substance. **solution** /'sɒlu:ʃ(ə)n/ *n.* 1 solving or means of solving a problem. 2 a conversion of a solid or gas into a liquid by mixture with a liquid. *□* **state resulting from this**. 3 dissolving or being dissolved. **solve** *v.* (-ving) answer, remove, or effectively deal with (a problem). *□* **solvable** *adj.* **solvent** *-adj.* 1 able to pay one's debts; not in debt. 2 able to dissolve or form a solution with something. *-n.* solvent liquid etc. *□* **solvency** *n.* (in sense 2 of *adj.*) **somatic** /'sə'mætɪk/ *adj.* of the body, not of the mind. *□* **somatically** *adv.* [Greek *sōma* -mat- body] **sombre** /'sɒmbə(r)/ *adj.* (also *US somber*) dark, gloomy, dismal. *□* **sombrely** *adv.* **sombreness** *n.* [Latin *sub omnia* under shade] **sombrero** /'sɒm'bresrəʊ/ *n.* (*pl.* *-s*) broad-brimmed hat worn esp. in Latin America. [Spanish: related to *SOMBRE*] **some** /'səm/ *-adj.* 1 unspecified amount or number of (*some water*; *some apples*; *some of them*). 2 unknown or unspecified (*some day*; *some fool broke it*). 3 approximately (*some ten days*). 4 considerable (*went to some trouble*; *at some cost*). 5 (usu. stressed) *a* at least a modicum of (*have some consideration*). *b* such up to a point (*that is some help*). *c* *colloq.* remarkable (*I call that some story*). *-pron.* some people or things, some number or amount (*I have some already*). *-adv.* *colloq.* to some extent (*do it some more*). [Old English] **some<sup>1</sup>** *suffix* forming adjectives meaning 1 producing (*fearsome*). 2 characterized by being (*gladsome*). 3 apt to